

## Message Text

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62

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 WRD-01 SSO-00 A-01

/019 W

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O 162025Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1527

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4059

DEPT FOR A/SY, RCO/ARA, WRDCO, A/OC; PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AR, ACOM

SUBJ: INTERCEPT OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH TRANSPORT, JUNE 13

1. ON JUNE 16 SECURITY OFFICER, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, ADVISED RSO OF THE FOLLOWING: ON JUNE 13 BETWEEN 1800 AND 1900 HOURS ALITALIA VEHICLE PERFORMING THE FUNCTION OF A COURIER VEHICLE FOR UNCLASSIFIED MATTERS WAS INTERCEPTED ON THE ROAD BETWEEN MEROPOLITAN BUENOS AIRES AND EZEIZA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THERE WERE TWO OCCUPANTS IN THE VEHICLE. THE INTERCEPT WAS AFFECTED BY TWO AUTOMOBILES, GREEN FALCONS. INTERCEPT TOOK PLACE WITH ONE VEHICLE CUTTING OFF THE FORWARD MOVEMENT OF THE COURIER VEHICLE, THE SECOND VEHICLE POSITIONED ITSELF BEHIND THE COURIER VEHICLE. INTERCEPTING VEHICLES USED SIRENS AND OCCUPANTS OF COURIER VEHICLE THOUGHT THEY WERE BEING STOPPED BY POLICE PERSONNEL. INTERCEPTING VEHICLES WERE UNMARKED. TWO INDIVIDUALS DISMOUNTED THE INTERCEPTING UNITS WITH SUB MACHINE GUNS. THE DRIVER AND OTHER OCCUPANT OF THE COURIER VEHICLE WERE FORCED TO LAY FACE DOWN IN A GRASSY AREA. THE COURIER VEHICLE WAS TRANSPORTING UNCLASSIFIED DIPLOMATIC POUCHES BELONGING TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY AND PAPAL NUNCION. POUCHES BELONGING TO THE AUSTRALIAN AND ITALIAN EMBASSIES WERE REMOVED.

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ON JUNE 16 A DAY LABORER WORKING FOR A CONSTRUCTION FIRM

FOUND A DISCARDED POUCH BAG NOTING THAT MAIL INSIDE OF THE BAG REFLECTED THE ADDRESS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HE CONTACTED THE EMBASSY BY TELEPHONE. THE POUCH BAG WAS PICKED UP BY MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY AND CONTENTS EXAMINED. OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC MAIL DID NOT APPEAR TO BE TAMPERED WITH. PERSONAL MAIL HAD BEEN OPENED. MAIL BELONGING TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WAS ALSO FOUND IN THE AUSTRALIAN POUCH BAG. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY INFORMED GOA FEDERAL POLICE AND OFFICIAL NOTE TO BE PREPARED TO GOA FOREIGN MINISTRY. ASSUME LIKE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY ITALIAN EMBASSY.

2. RSO COMMENT: APPROPRIATE OFFICES EMBASSY INFORMED OF INCIDENT. COURIER VEHICLE THIS EMBASSY EQUIPPED WITH TWO WAY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AND IN CONTACT WITH EMBASSY'S RADIO CONTROL AT ALL TIMES. COURIER VEHICLE PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR ALUMINUM ARMOR AND BULLET PROOF GLASS. SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST REPORTED INCIDENT OF THE INTERCEPT OF A COURIER VEHICLE, RSO CANNOT EVALUATE INCIDENT NOR CAN APPROPRIATE COMMENTS BE MADE CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE PERPETRATOR OF THE OFFENSE. SOME CONSIDERATION MAY BE DESIRABLE WHERE VARIATION OF SCHEDULE OF CLASSIFIED COURIER IS CONCERNED. ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE TO VARY ROUTES AND TIMES OF UNCLASSIFIED POUCH PICKUPS AND DISPATCHES.  
MONTLLOR

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** woolflhd  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ASEC, ACOM, AR  
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